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TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1915.

A Line o' Cheer Each Day o' the Year.

By JOHN KENDRICK BANGS.

First printing of an original poem, written daily
for The Washington Herald.

LOVE'S PERMANENCE.

Down in the depths of a dull despair
I glanced above and the skies were fair,
And Heaven's own Love shone resplendent there,
As much my own as I chose to share;
And then I knew in my hour of blue—
The real import of those skies of blue—
That woes, and care, and trials pass by,
But Love is fixed as the smiling sky,
And so shall be.

Despite all pain through Eternity.

(Copyright, 1915.)

In order to keep Italy from joining the allies,
Austria has offered to cede her a part of the
province of Trent at the close of the war. Italy
has more than one reason for replying "Do it
now."

Former President Taft may be a very busy
professor, as he explains, but his friends have no
reason to abandon hope that he would consent to
relinquish the title of professor in favor of his
former one of President.

The Herald yesterday published a letter from
a schoolgirl correspondent urging the participation
of pupils in the public schools in Washington's
"clean-up" campaign. If anyone, even a growing-
up, is in doubt about how to help, a perusal of
this young lady's letter will afford practical in-
struction.

It is no idle jest to say that already the war
has taken the starch out of Germany. Owing to
the shortness of the flour supply, the usual starch-
ing of linen is now prohibited by direct order.
Hereafter the soft collar and cuff only will be
worn. Another ghastly thrust at Teutonic mili-
tarism.

The commander of the Prinz Eitel Friedrich is
quoted as saying that he will not attempt a dash
for the sea except on a moonless night or in a fog;
which means that the cruiser will be interned
unless such weather conditions prevail during the
limited period in which the commander will have
to make up his mind.

There will be no difficulty in raising the money
necessary to prepare the case of the District of
Columbia for presentation to the Congressional
Commission which is investigating its fiscal rela-
tions with the Federal government. The sum re-
quired is not large, and a very small contribution
from everyone whose interests are at stake will
defray the expense, because every taxpayer is con-
cerned.

The longer this government's protest to the
allies against their blockade is delayed the less
public applause it will receive, in the light of
recent events of the British coast. Compared with
the exploit of a German submarine in sinking the
British merchantman Fabala, without giving her
passengers and crew a chance to take to the
lifeboats, Great Britain's efforts to blockade Ger-
man ports, without danger to human life, appear
wholly benevolent.

A Philadelphia chemist found the following
substances in cake sold by a dealer who was ar-
rested for not keeping his wares in a sanitary con-
dition: Sand, oil of coal dust, disintegrated hair
fragments, human hair, wool fragments, black and
yellow; cotton fibers, white, black, blue, yellow
and green; linen fibers, white, green and violet;
straw, disintegrated vegetable tissue, cobwebs, pine-
wood and other wood fragments, paper fragments
and iron rust fragments. No doubt the fellow
removed all the pearls and rubies.

Nothing will be proved and nothing will be
gained by the letter controversy between the
Postoffice Department and the railroads over the
rate of pay for carrying the mails. In their efforts
to prove their contentions in the court of public
opinion both sides are making statements and sub-
mitting statistics that only partially cover the
situation and are not convincing. The postoffice
bill, providing for a change in the system of pay-
ment, failed of passage in Congress because the
Senate was not allowed time to give the subject
the consideration it demanded. The next Congress
will settle the controversy by legislation, and both
sides would do better to reserve their ammunition
until next winter.

The local street car transportation problem is
difficult of solution. Obviously there is need of an
extension of trackage, yet whenever a new route
is proposed there is a protest. It is not unusual
that householders on streets on which it is pro-
posed to lay new tracks should be quick to suggest
more suitable routes, along which their friends
and distant neighbors reside, but sooner or later
new tracks must be laid somewhere. When it is
proposed to couple trailers with motor cars the
protest comes from the "safety-first" advocates;
yet something should be done, even before new
tracks can be laid, to relieve the rush hour con-
gestion, and it is impossible to run separate cars
closer together than at present. The street car
companies cannot fairly be blamed for present
conditions. They have done everything possible
to remedy them. Apparently concessions will have
to be made all around, if anything like a solution
of the problem is to be arrived at.

Talk Counteracted by Deeds.

The efforts of those lecturers and apologists
who are going about this country trying to talk
the American people into taking a different and
more favorable view of Germany's cause in the
war are being handicapped by the operations of
the German submarines in the British Channel and
the North Sea. American sympathy, which un-
questionably has been against Germany ever since
the full horror of the outrage against the Belgians
was revealed, will not be won back by the preach-
ings of these missionaries so long as the German
navy continues preying upon non-combatants with
ruthless disregard of human life. It is a form of
warfare that is not only in conflict with American
ideas of humanity, but with all the practices of
civilization, and will never be condoned in this
country. American sympathy will forever be de-
nied to the nation guilty of it.

Upon the same day that Mr. B. Herman Ridder
made a public attack on the war policy of the
United States government and appealed to the
people of the Capital for sympathy for the nation
he represents a German submarine sank a passen-
ger ship without giving the 200 non-combatants
on board sufficient time to embark in the life-
boats. Fortunately other aid was at hand and
some of the intended victims were rescued from
the water. Mr. Ridder's oratory has gone for
naught, though the chances are the language of
his criticism of the administration would have been
resented in any event. Because the neutrality of
President Wilson and Secretary Bryan is not of
the same brand as his own Mr. Ridder went so far
as to insinuate that Mr. Bryan is not a "real Sec-
retary of State" and to ridicule him for being "on
his knees at a prohibition meeting."

Mr. Ridder is the son of the editor of the New
York Staats-Zeitung and a member of a more or
less organized body of radical German-Americans
who have undertaken to compel the American gov-
ernment and people to adopt their rules of neu-
trality, which means practically open hostility to
Germany's enemies. The very large majority of
Americans are entirely satisfied with the course
of their government in the war, though there has
been a disposition to regard the treatment of the
W. P. Frye incident and Germany's blockade de-
claration as rather an extreme manifestation of for-
eignance. But the government of the United States
needs no advice from sympathizers of Germany or
of the allies as to rules of neutrality. The propa-
gandists have chosen an inopportune time for the
renewal and extension of their campaign.

A Nefarious Industry in New York.

Again in New York the amazing attempt of an
unscrupulous woman to extort money from a man
of means and prominence has failed. Very few of
the many similar attempts in the metropolis, which
have been exploited in the newspapers, have suc-
ceeded; but the assumption is fully justified that
there have been innumerable instances in which
victims have submitted to blackmail and thus es-
caped publicity.

Judging by the large number of cases that have
gone as far as the courts, in which the plaintiffs
suits for damage for breach of promise or other
alleged offenses have been proved to be plain ad-
venturesses, New York must be infested with
women who live luxuriously by ensnaring and
fleecing men of wealth. Usually the last resort,
when the income fails, is a lawsuit. Almost in-
variably when the victim summons up enough
courage, or is compelled by the size of the de-
mand, to fight he is vindicated, though sometimes
at the expense of his acknowledgment of a not
wholly reputable acquaintanceship with the black-
mailer. The number of those who keep on paying
the price of silence, however, must be large enough
to make the nefarious industry profitable.

It is the exception when the plaintiff in a case
of this nature which reaches the courts is repre-
sented by a lawyer of standing, a fact which sug-
gests that the New York bar might take some
action that would tend to curb the infamous ac-
tivities of women of this class. Not only should
men of wealth and position who are innocent of
wrongdoing be afforded protection, but some bar-
rier should be erected to prevent the use of the
courts for the collection of blackmail. In some
cases, in fact, certain features have been disclosed
bringing them plainly within the jurisdiction of the
police department.

Mexican Task Awaited.

The situation on the Mexican border has again
become critical. Should Mexican bullets spill
American blood in Texas, so soon after the sur-
render of McAdams under the Stars and Stripes
in Mexico City, it is difficult to see how the admin-
istration could avoid taking punitive action. Re-
peated warnings against firing across the line have
been issued, but latest reports indicate that Amer-
icans are in imminent danger. If casualties should
result another warning would be a feeble ab-
surdity. Two years of backing and filling on the
part of the administration has left the Mexican
situation worse than at any time since Madero was
slain, and Washington has helplessly watched the
drift.

The United States must do something in Mexico,
and that soon. There has been ample provocation
to justify action now, and why not, since it must
come? The administration must long have recog-
nized the inevitable and its own responsibility;
therefore the country has a right to feel assured
that it has been preparing and that it will not
drift into action, but will proceed, when it does
proceed, with a deliberate purpose. Mexico is
not too big a task for the United States. We
must have come almost to the end of putting it off.

Saving Lives.

The fight to save human lives in America has
been eminently successful during the last few
years and the loss from preventable diseases has
been materially reduced. Perhaps the greatest im-
provement has been in typhoid fever, where sani-
tation and medical treatment have worked together
to good effect. In the field of tuberculosis a great
deal has been accomplished, although not as much
as was originally hoped for. In this disease it is
largely a case of money—to get enough to give
the victims of "the white plague" the treatment
they need.—New Orleans Times-Picayune.

Old Men Lead.

The proverb "old men for counsel, young men
for war" has generally been understood by the
wise to mean that old men may be useful occa-
sionally for proffering advice based on experience,
but that strength and energy and enthusiasm of
young men are essential for any real activity on
a large scale, such as war. The proverb still holds
good, but with a qualification. Young men are
still the backbone of war—in the trenches. The
old men are the counselors, but they are more than
counselors. They are the active executive heads—
the commanders.—Pittsburgh Press.

The Imaginary People.

By JOHN D. BARRY.

YESTERDAY I met one of those interesting
talkers that pride themselves on their insight.
After intimately discussing several people known
to us both, explaining what
went on in their inner con-
sciousness, he proceeded to
tell me things about myself.
Once or twice I was tempted
to stop him; but I resisted.
To tell the truth, I was curi-
ous to see how far he would
go. He kept watching my
face for assurance that his
insight was correct. The
more he talked the stronger
grew his confidence. He
proceeded to tell me things
that, he declared, went on in my mind, very in-
timate things, some of them flattering.

Not one of those particular things had ever
happened to occur to me.

But there was no use in telling that observer so.

He would have known better.

He was simply doing aloud what most of us
do in silence, creating an imaginary human being
and identifying it with a real human being.

The fact cannot be questioned that
American securities, taken as a whole,
are selling at abnormally low prices,
and that the income offered is, con-
sequently, unattractive. In
certain powerful speculators, how-
ever, apprehend serious distress as a
result of the unparalleled destruction
of wealth caused by the war, and
of the productive lines now
going on.

The economic problem of 1915 is
more complex than any the world ever
before has known, and High Finance
is already being forced to act cautiously
in face of grave uncertainties.

The growing belief that the war is
likely to end with sensational sudden-
ness is based on a variety of incidents,
included these:

The almost certain entrance into the
struggle of Italy, Bulgaria, Roumania,
and Greece, the progress made in
forcing the Dardanelles and capturing
Constantinople; the fall of Persia;
the semicircle of Germany's subma-
rine blockade against British merchant
vessels; the increasingly rigid isolation
of Germany from sources of war
and food supplies; and the latest ul-
timate of German statesmen regard-
ing the attitude strong nations should
adopt toward weak neighbors.

However, our monetary position is so
strong that we can face with equanimity
any liquidation of American securities
which Europeans may undertake, par-
ticularly since the American public are
showing such readiness to absorb offer-
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It is not yet possible to describe indus-
trial conditions at home as universally
favorable, but the agricultural outlook is
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"On the other hand, some of those
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legislative halls.—Charleston News and Courier.

Permyl Another Sedan

The surrender at Permyl of an Austrian army
but little smaller than that which laid down its
arms at Sedan in 1870 may fairly be estimated
as the greatest disaster of the war. Only the
battle of the Marne can be compared with it as a
decisive incident. In the opening months of the
war Germany had sought to dispose of France.
A winter campaign had been devoted to dealing
with Russia. After Lodz and the Masurian Lakes
German military writers had repeated the claims
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a great Russian army is released to strike the
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ready expected, Vienna and Budapest must henceforth
dread. The cheering thousands in Petrograd have
awakened ominous echoes in Rome and Bucharest.
In itself the capture of Permyl is a great achieve-
ment, one of the most splendid in Russian his-
tory, but in its moral effect it is for the Kaiser and
his allies a disaster comparable only with those of
Metz and Sedan.—The New Republic.

Huge Trade Balance Insures U. S. Financial Position

(By B. C. Forbes, in New York American.)

The most impressive developments have been:

1. An almost nation-wide demand for
stocks from investors of small or mod-
erate means.

2. An astonishingly confident belief in
the future of the country, the European
war will collapse completely within three
or four months.

3. Increasing faith among responsible
business men that the political tide has
definitely turned and that constructive
legislation hereafter will be the rule.

4. A tremendous increase in the favor-
able attitude of American financiers
toward the European situation, the inter-
state commerce commission, state courts, labor
organizations, and the general public.

The people, it is claimed, are now lend-
ing a more responsive ear to responsible
business leaders and employers than to
volatile politicians.

Public utterances of men of affairs are
today given more prominence and are
more widely discussed, than the speeches
of anti-business politicians.

The wave of thrift which is sweeping
over the country makes for considerate
treatment of railroads and other corpo-
rations whose securities are being in-
vested in with the accumulating savings.

The outlook at this juncture is that
the next five years will not see a repeti-
tion of the severe depression of the
five years ended December 31, 1914.

Exports continue on an extraordinary
scale.

The excess of shipments over imports
for the nine months ended March 31
promised to exceed \$100,000,000, the balance
due to the opening of this month having
been \$75,000,000.

As exclusively announced in these
articles last Tuesday, negotiations for the
granting of export credits to Great
Britain and to France are nearing con-
clusion, details having awaited the
arrival of J. P. Morgan in London. Mr.
Morgan is now conferring with British
treasury officials and British bankers, so
that definite announcements may be looked
for this week.

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that the financing of exports of stable
products for the next two or three months
will be a serious problem.

(By B. C. Forbes, in New York American.)

The most impressive developments have been:

1. An almost nation-wide demand for
stocks from investors of small or mod-
erate means.

2. An astonishingly confident belief in
the future of the country, the European
war will collapse completely within three
or four months.

3. Increasing faith among responsible
business men that the political tide has
definitely turned and that constructive
legislation here